



City Councilmember
Carl DeMaio

News Release

DeMaio Releases “Welcome Home Plan” To Help Veterans Transition to Jobs

Proposal to Provide the Mentorship and Cooperation Needed to Help Veterans Transition to Employment

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SAN DIEGO –Councilmember Carl DeMaio today released an ambitious 7-point plan to help returning veterans transition into new jobs in San Diego. Surrounded by leaders in veterans’ job training programs, DeMaio is bringing the issue of veterans’ unemployment to the forefront as military spending cuts and the draw-down in Afghanistan promises to make the problem even more challenging in coming years.

“We can honor the service of our veterans by helping them transition to new jobs once they return,” DeMaio commented.

“City leaders should not stand idly by as returning veterans face unemployment rates twice as high as the rest of the population,” said DeMaio. “Employment challenges faced by our veterans will only increase as tens of thousands of soldiers return home from Iraq over the coming year.”

Dubbed the “Welcome Home Plan” - DeMaio’s proposals include:

- Launch a “Veterans-Helping-Veterans” Initiative to Provide Mentors to Help Vets Transition to Employment
- Expand opportunities for veteran-owned small companies to bid on city contracts.
- Partner with *San Diego 211* to increase coordination between the City, County, and multiple disjointed local veterans’ organizations that provide assistance.
- Study changes in local licensing and certification processes, so that skills learned on the battlefield can be more easily translated into a civilian job.
- Work with the USO to provide a permanent facility in San Diego.
- Reconvene the City’s Military & Veterans Affairs Advisory Board, including members who specialize in veterans’ job training programs.

Many experts in veterans’ job training and employment programs attended DeMaio’s Job Creation Town Halls in the fall and have been helpful in offering ideas to fight the challenges facing veterans looking for work. The need to coordinate between the region’s multiple agencies, non-profits, and employers is paramount to addressing the veterans employment crisis.

DeMaio is submitting his proposal to the City Council’s recently created “Economic Development and Strategies Committee.”

“As veterans are coming back from their service, we need to commit to get them back to work,” concluded DeMaio.

For more information on Carl DeMaio’s other job creation proposals, please visit: <http://www.sandiego.gov/cd5/>.

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